

# AVIATION

## AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING



Blériot 28-Passenger Airplane, Fitted with Four Hispano-Suiza 220 Hp. Engines  
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VOLUME VII  
Number 8

### SPECIAL FEATURES

DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH NAVAL AVIATION  
SUPPLY OF METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION  
ESTIMATING THE PERFORMANCE OF AN AIRPLANE  
THE EFFICIENCY OF TANDEM PROPELLERS  
INADEQUACY OF VISUAL INSPECTION IN KILN-DRYING

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CREW OF U. S. MARTIN "ROUND THE RIM FLYER"—Left to right: Colonel Harts, Lieuts. L. A. Smith and E. E. Harman, Sergeants John Harding, Jr., and Jeremiah Tobias

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FROM	TO	PLANE	DISTANCE	MARTIN AIRCRAFT TIME	RAILROAD TIME
Cleveland	Chicago	3-10 Bomber	344 Miles	1 hour 30 min.	4 hours
Washington	New York	Capt. Pease	361 Miles	2 hours	4 hours, 32 min.
Washington	San Francisco	3-10 Bomber	330 Miles	2 hours, 30 min.	10 hours
Cleveland	New York	3-10 Bomber	480 Miles	3 hours 30 min.	24 hours
Chicago	New York	Capt. Pease	404 Miles	2 hours 45 min.	24 hours
St. Louis	Washington	Capt. Pease	420 Miles	3 hours 18 min.	23 hours

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# AVIATION AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

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## INDEX TO CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorials .....	339	Note on the Efficiency of Tandem Propellers .....	351
The Development of French Naval Aviation .....	340	Inadequacy of Visual Inspection in Kilo- Drying .....	352
Electrical Testing Apparatus for Speed Tests .....	345	Study of Aerology in the Air Service .....	354
The Supply of Meteorological Information .....	346	M. I. T. Endowment Campaign .....	354
Estimating Performance of an Airplane .....	349	Computations of Airplane Climb .....	355
The Influence of Water Injection on Engine Performance .....	350		

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## AEROPLANE CRANKSHAFTS

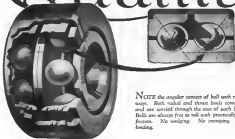
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## AVIATION AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

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EDITORIAL MANAGER  
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EDITORIAL MANAGER

Vol. VII

November 15, 1935

No. 4

**T**HE policy of McCook Field, where the experimental work of the Air Service is done as so evidently towards excessive centralization that attention should be given it by those interested in American aeronautic development. At a time when our designers are trying to keep their work ahead of foreign aeronautical engineering, they find little practical encouragement from McCook Field. Aeronautic engineers of the best type such as Wilbur, Leaning, Vought, Thomas, Galland and others whose airplanes have been among the best in the world, are idle as far as the Army is concerned, while McCook Field is engaging foreign engineers to design airplanes for the American Air Service. Their employment by the United States War Department, while American engineers are struggling along without development work, is unfortunate.

If all the design, engineering and experimental work of the Army is to be centralized and the native industry become merely a reproductive agent of McCook Field, a patent should be made at once. If the achievements of the engineers at McCook Field had been given as compared with the private designers, it would not be as difficult a situation to face. But with all the huge expenditures, comparatively little of original work has been forthcoming.

With the American aviation industry at a standstill, twelve hundred men are at work at Dayton, many of them at very high salaries, and the plan of moving to Dayton City is constantly being brought up. If the industrial policy is continued American designers will have to look solely to the Navy or commercial aviation for encouragement and this country will face a situation where in a military emergency, it will have nothing but the limited productions of McCook Field for reproduction, rather than the products of the best American aeronautic engineers.

### Fuels for High Compression Ratios

In a recent paper by E. W. Dean and Clarence Netter publicity has been given to one of the most important pieces of research carried out during the war, by the cooperation of the Bureau of Mines, the Signal Corps, the Deutsches Laboratorium and the Bureau of Standards, namely, the relation between the nature of the fuel employed in an internal combustion engine and the maximum compression ratio that can be maintained without interfering with smooth operation.

The Deutsches Laboratorium, first experimenting with an uncooled engine adapted for operating on kerosene, found that the use of compression ratios above a certain value caused what was described as "the laminar knock" or "pinking." With proper selection of fuel this "knock" could be avoided. It was this "knock" which at the time caused the general conviction that the compression ratios of airplane engines should be limited to the order of 5.4 to 1.

Very logically a similar process of selection was applied to aviation engine fuels. The chemical properties of the fuels were obviously more important than the physical properties of the fuels. Accordingly, samples of gasoline were obtained from different varieties of crude petroleum, various types of synthetic gasolines were obtained. Benzol, alcohol, cyclohexane were other fuels employed.

Tests were conducted in a single cylinder liberty engine, in which compression ratios could be varied from 5.4 to 1 up to 8.2 to 1.

The final result of the investigation was that "benzol" benzol, alcohol and a special alcohol-benzol gasoline mixture showed only a slight tendency to knock under an 8.2 to 1 compression ratio.

On a liberty 18 a mixture of 50% of cyclohexane and 50% of benzene, given with a compression ratio of 7.2 furnished results both on the knock and in the air, with perfectly smooth runs. Altitude laboratory tests showed a decided increase in power at all levels. Since one of the main difficulties in practical aeronautics is the employment of high compression ratios to keep down engine weight, the above results are very gratifying. The chart has shown as a path, which has much promise.

### Alloy Research

The division of Industrial Research, National Research Council, announces the formation of an Alloy Research Association to conduct systematic research into fundamental questions affecting pure metals and alloys, both ferrous and non-ferrous.

The Association will invite its members to submit technical questions.

It is extraordinary how many questions an aviation member could ask, or in how many directions he could strike both steel and aluminum alloys.

The work of the Association will be closely watched by the aeronautical industry mainly as it relates to a wider and more efficient utilization of metal in the component parts of aircraft.





FIG. 5. TELLER BOAT SEAPLANE—200 H.P. HISPANO-SUIZA

the pilot's compartment immediately behind it. The outside mount of a gun lever for the machine and a pivoted bar with a handwheel for the elevator and ailerons.

The engine is a V type Curtiss Hispano-Suiza, developing 200 hp. at 2000 r.p.m. The propeller is driven through reduction gearing at 1375 r.p.m. The gasoline tanks behind the pilot contain 52 gal., giving a radius of action of about 450 mi. As stated in the accompanying table, the speed at water level is 84 m.p.h., and the time of climb to 2000 meters (6560 ft.) is 35 sec. 50 sec.

A larger Teller model was also produced during the war. This is equipped with a Standard "Comach" 12-cyl. engine giving 356 hp. at 2000 r.p.m. and drawing a four-bladed Curtiss propeller at half the speed.

Other characteristics of this model in addition to those given in the table are:

Speed at water	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 1000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 2000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 3000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 4000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 5000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 6000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 7000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 8000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 9000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 10000 ft.	75 m.p.h.

In tests held at Saint Raphael, the French Naval Aviation Experimental Station, the Teller Seaplane has flown with the extraordinary useful load of 3000 lb. With the service load of 2500 lb., the machine has a speed of 72 m.p.h. and climbs 2000 meters (6560 ft.) in 25 sec. The armament consists of a Lewis machine gun and two 330 lb. bombs.



FIG. 6. LEVY-LAPLANCHE BOAT SEAPLANE—TYPE "ALBATROS"—180 H.P. HISPANO-SUIZA

On July 28, 1919, Marshal, the French seaplane, is a Teller-Seaplane, mounted the Mediterranean from Saint Raphael to Pau in 16 hr. and 20 min. This is the first time that the Mediterranean has been spanned by heavier-than-air craft. The first two crossings, strangely enough, were made on land machines. It will be remembered that during the war Marshal flew across Germany and landed in Poland, where he was captured. Later, in company with Gurney, he escaped to France.

#### Levy-Laplanche Seaplane

The standard Levy-Laplanche boat seaplane (Figs. 6 and 7) has a Hispano 12-cyl. V type water-cooled engine of 180 hp., driving a Curtiss propeller.

As noted in the accompanying table, the upper wing overhangs the lower by about 10 ft. on each side. Inland struts are used to take the overhang instead of an elaborate system of high-pitch trussing as in our previous. Even though the Levy-Laplanche is not of enormous size, it has all its essential surfaces balanced—ailerons, elevators and rudder.

The hull has two cockpits—one for the pilot in the bow and one for the pilot and third member of the crew farther aft, but well forward of the wings, giving good vision. From the pilot's cockpit in the tail there are seven water-tight compartments, each with its respective bulk. The bottom of the hull is in the form of a very flat V from the bow to the single step, which is located slightly ahead of the center of gravity. All of the step the hull sweeps up in a gentle curve in the tail—a feature of design typical of French practice.

The following particulars, in addition to those given in the table, are available:

Speed at water	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 1000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 2000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 3000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 4000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 5000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 6000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 7000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 8000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 9000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 10000 ft.	75 m.p.h.

Just previous to the armistice Georges Levy produced a new Levy-Laplanche model known as the "Albatros." This is a small two-seater boat seaplane with a remarkably high performance, comparing very favorably with the Italian Macchi batismo considered as a class by itself.

The general design of this machine is similar to that of the larger model. There are, of course, fewer elevator struts, and it has not been considered necessary to lighten the structure. Attention is called to the use of cylindrical floats mounted on the hull behind the wings and in the propeller slip stream. This machine has become very popular, being very light, having low fuel resistance and high efficiency. It is, in fact, of course, a combination with a water tank mounted in the engine group.



FIG. 7. LEVY-LAPLANCHE BOAT SEAPLANE—TYPE "ALBATROS"—180 H.P. HISPANO-SUIZA

#### The characteristics of the Levy-Laplanche "Albatros" are:

Span (upper wing)	35 ft. 0 in.
Span (lower wing)	25 ft. 0 in.
Length	25 ft. 0 in.
Height	10 ft. 0 in.
Weight (empty)	1000 lb.
Weight (full)	1500 lb.
Speed at water level	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 1000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 2000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 3000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 4000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 5000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 6000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 7000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 8000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 9000 ft.	75 m.p.h.
Speed at 10000 ft.	75 m.p.h.

#### Levy-Batismo Seaplane

The Levy-Batismo 200 hp. Hispano-Suiza seaplane boat seaplane (Figs. 8, 9 and 10) is of very original design. In the first place, the center plane, incorporating the ailerons, has considerably greater span than either the top or bottom wings. The arrangement is thoroughly logical, as adequate surface is obtained by a wing well above the water and yet low enough to bring the center of resistance well into the center of thrust. This envelope is responsible of modulation in a lightest boat seaplane, as the engine has as much room to be raised sufficiently for the propeller to clear the hull.

As given below in the list of particulars, the angle of incidence varies in each wing and on each side of the wing.

The outer struts on each side are of solid spruce, but the intermediate struts are of light steel tubing. Forward wing spars are fitted in the outer struts only, and the extension of the outer wing is by cable from top and bottom of the outer struts. The landing and flying wires are arranged according to the Span system, coming in at the center of the intermediate struts.

The wings are made as in to fold back from the outer sections. With four men it takes only 30 sec. to fold the wings back and 7 min. to unfold them. The wings are hinged at the root of the rear spar, the front spar where the machine is rigged for flying being held by bolts passing through fittings on the center section struts. To fold back the wings, all that has to be done is to unhook the fitting on each side of the hull, leading these shaft wires passing to the wings and to take out the pins securing the front spars.

Ramp bolts are fixed on top of the four center section struts so that the machine can be ramped aboard ship.

The tail plane is raised considerably above the hull so as to be in line with the center of thrust and to have ample clearance from the water. The control angle of incidence can be



FIG. 8. LEVY-BATISMO BOAT SEAPLANE—200 H.P. HISPANO-SUIZA



# The Supply of Meteorological Information\*

By Lieut.-Col. H. G. Lyons

The difficulty and value of aviation are so greatly increased by unfavorable atmospheric conditions that the aviator is naturally strongly impressed by the importance to him of the best and fullest meteorological information that he can obtain; and he may be led to assume that the information that he requires must necessarily suffice for all other aviation and all kinds of investigations.

The truth is rather that the fullest meteorological information of all kinds that can be obtained and used and worked upon by trained meteorologists in order that we may have more of the principles underlying the phenomena that we see and feel in the sky and better fitted to observe aviation as well as all other in which weather and climate are factors with which they have to be reckoned.

Though aviation makes probably larger demands on that part of meteorology which deals especially with weather, that is, with the short period changes of meteorological conditions, it does not thereby cover the whole field of meteorology any more than the chemistry required in the work of any branch of chemical industry necessarily covers the whole field of chemical science. The same phenomena which are of import to aviation are among those which the meteorologist studies for the purpose of his science. The utmost and the importance of the force and direction of the wind at various altitudes above the surface of the earth, which are observed by means of pilot balloons, drift balloons and other means, are not limited to the aviation alone. The synoptic methods in its work as generally they are carefully observed and studied, the meteorologist in his study of the physical conditions of the atmosphere requires them as data from a region where friction with the earth's surface, and heating and cooling of the air by convection, do not complicate the problems with which he has to deal. It is almost impossible to say that any particular meteorological study is supplementary to aviation, that it is done for the purpose of the application of meteorological science. Measurements, observations, laboratory at various altitudes, taken with all the precision that can be attained are indispensable in the meteorologist's work as a science which seeks to understand the phenomena that we observe, and which, when determined, represent a definite advance in our knowledge and thereby in our power of general application. Observations made on one line of investigation will often, in practical hands, lead to advances in knowledge which are of the utmost importance in their application to specific definite fields. Thus the observations made by R. J. Tupper, P. S. Maclean, P. S. Maclean, and others, as "Aerosols," which were obtained for studying the distribution of dust in the North Atlantic, have led to most important knowledge of the distribution of dust in the atmosphere, which has thrown light on the conditions which determine the formation of mist, fog and low clouds, thus materially advancing our knowledge of a part of our subject which is of extreme importance to the aviator.

Thus all the meteorological information which is collected for any purpose should be made available to all workers in the science, and it is necessary that the information should be published in the forms which have been adapted after careful consideration as being the most suitable in any way, but it is not the aim of the present paper, again to re-emphasize the importance of the information that the working meteorologist would have access to and to which he should be guided by an effective system of organization and recording. The material that is used and is referred to in this paper is meteorological science an effective means exists of increasing rapidly the amount of our knowledge.

In the Meteorological Office there are records extending over more than half a century, and besides these there are hundreds of investigations which have been made from one time to another for various purposes. In the present results there is a rather limited list of such information as is complete.

\*Extracts from a paper read before the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain.

and more detailed means of leading the aviator to those pieces of information which have most directly on the object of his search is being introduced. That is under the study effective it must include and make the material that is stored as a single collection, but it must also include every additional information may be found elsewhere.

Next to the importance of collecting that all meteorological information must be available for use in all branches of study, and all kinds of application, in the need for general cooperation on the whole line is all part of the subject. The present lack of any satisfactory system on the earth's surface, whether in the polar, temperate, or tropical regions, in relation to the need, in the interior of a continent, or in some island.



Training for Direction and Velocity of Wind

near one level, or at a constant height, all these and many other factors impress their influence on the phenomena which are observed at it. Before we can utilize such information, however, we must know all about the station from which it comes, and in order to do this from the results obtained on the effects of the various factors, we must know precisely how the observations have been taken and what their accuracy may be.

Thus it is extremely difficult to take such observations at certain levels, by various methods, and with specified types of instruments, so that the results of one station shall be, as far as possible, comparable with those of another. Absolute uniformity of practice may not be everywhere attainable, but it is equally important that the highest standards of meteorology has been provided the greatest measure of uniformity has been the constant use of the meteorological office of all countries.

It has been recognized generally that for many years, in using different kinds of observations or different methods of observing would be to increase the difficulty of obtaining the results as compared with those of others and thereby to diminish the return for the expense incurred in their collection.

Now such co-operation in the main necessary since the meteorologist is always in the position of an observer, officer, for he depends almost wholly on the information he can procure and collect from far and wide for his material. The station stations he can determine almost, but is mostly dependent on those which have been taken by other workers, probably in other lands and under very different conditions. The phenomena with which he deals, even those which are rapidly changing, cover very large areas, and synoptic departments are often more than one thousand miles across, and then only move at a rate of 30 to 40 m. p. h. There must therefore be the fullest co-operation between observers of all countries and the greatest uniformity of practice in observations, in methods of recording, and in methods of communicating and transmitting information, so that the results may be as accurate as possible.

All authorities have long recognized that the weather of any particular region is only the local result of causes



Chart Showing Weather Bureau Division of Services Wind Direction at Different Altitudes

which belong to the general circulation of the atmosphere, so that a collection of the meteorological data of the globe will be of great use.

Thus it is given provided in such a form as can be produced at present by the publication of the Meteorological Office, the "Global Almanac," which gives the pressure, temperature and rainfall for each month at a number of selected stations, two for each ten-degree square being taken whenever possible. The publication, of which the years 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, have appeared, is one possible example of the uniformity and co-operation which has been achieved by international effort.

Changes in these international arrangements will be made to meet the needs of the future, but it is necessary that they should not be made hastily. Moreover, a collection of twenty-five international agencies is difficult to obtain more useful and satisfactory conditions in various countries differ so as to make co-operation difficult. At such some progress is made, but the main principle of increasing uniformity or providing the uniformity of practice already obtained must be kept in the foreground.

The next point for consideration is the supply of meteorological information is that for one special class of information, especially in connection with the highest standards of meteorology has been provided the greatest measure of uniformity has been the constant use of the meteorological office of all countries.

It has been recognized generally that for many years, in using different kinds of observations or different methods of observing would be to increase the difficulty of obtaining the results as compared with those of others and thereby to diminish the return for the expense incurred in their collection.

collection of reports and the issue of forecasts and warnings. In this supply forecasts have been long prepared three days, from observations at 7 a. m., 1 p. m. and 5 p. m., and with the increase of aviation during the war and the necessity for the issue of forecasts and warnings, the Meteorological Office has been obliged to issue forecasts and warnings, an additional forecast and report based on observations at 1 a. m. and 3 a. m., and a forecast and warning issued at 10 a. m. and 1 p. m.

For years past the meteorological services of most European countries, as well as those of India, Canada, the United States, Japan, and other countries, have been able to issue weather reports and maps of their area and of the surrounding regions, communicating information by telegraph and other means of communication. Europe was in this way first to provide, and then to receive, a large number of stations, to which were added in 1900 reports from ships of the Trans-Atlantic steamship line.

Under present conditions these international services can be and have been for the most part retained, but the new demands for a quicker and more frequent supply of information are much larger and more numerous than those of the past and the future. The aviator must now receive his reports within an interval of not more than an hour after the observations have been taken, and for them to be of value to the pilot, his observations from them should be available half an hour later.

Thus means that a large amount of information has to be transmitted at least daily, and in some cases at intervals of less than an hour, so that it is necessary, for the purpose of being directly comparable, all neighboring countries are covered in the service of meteorology, and the issue of reports at the same time. Wireless telegraphy at present is most greatly in the foreground, but it has other and numerous other uses, and it is not necessary for meteorological reports being transmitted at intervals of less than an hour, and co-operation and uniformity of practice at the same central agency, the means of data available for sending reports, plotting and transmitting on a map, considering the meteorological conditions themselves represented, and defining the possible changes and developments, is very small, and every means must be made of the necessary progress to be obtained. Services which employ special units for reporting observations or special methods of coding, requests who demand reports at special hours, all these things, which arise from a fixed procedure cause loss of time when every minute is of importance, and as far as possible such complications should be avoided.

Local conditions may greatly influence the weather which is experienced and these must be taken into account in the forecast issued by a central authority. It is no use making the forecast more too long, and would require a very large number of special forecasts being drafted just when there is no use. But local observations are sent to the Meteorological Office by the local meteorological office, which in the central compile a forecast of the general conditions, and in such of the observational material of the reporting stations as may be necessary to the forecast, and to supply the general forecast, so that it becomes a special forecast for his own particular use, taking account of his own conditions, and so that his local knowledge should materially aid him.

But whether it is a forecast issued from a central office or from a local office, it is necessary that the forecast should be issued as early as possible, so that it can be used, the conditions must be described in a few hours at most, and it is possible as well as to be issued, technical terms cannot be avoided.

The daily weather report which was issued before the war from the Meteorological Office, was a document which had grown up gradually and by numerous changes. It had been the rule to publish with the map the constant material which had been used in the production, so that the reader could see the changes in the conditions, and, if he pleased, draw his own deductions from it.

But under service conditions something simpler, plainer, and more direct on the presentation of the weather was required. This was the first step in the preparation of a new system. Those who had to make use of the daily weather reports were made to be too busy to wish to study the statistical material which accompanied the meteorological reports, which were







# Inadequacy of Visual Inspection in Kiln-Drying

By H. D. Tiemann, M.E., M.F.

Physicist and Dry Kiln Specialist, U. S. Forest Products Laboratory

Breakdown, internal stresses, and hidden checks produced by poor drying may be passed undetected in the most rapid inspection, since they cannot always be determined by direct examination of the material. The drying process itself is, therefore, of prime importance, not only for the saving of material through the avoidance of dry waste from injuries, as drying but even more so for the assurance that the material which passes inspection shall be free from visible defects or possible weakness. For this reason it has become necessary to draw up very careful specifications for the drying operations themselves, and to place inspectors at the kilns to see that the operations are conducted in accordance with the specifications. The need for this was realized when the airplane program was undertaken at the beginning of the war, and the Forest

Products Laboratory was called upon to make most favorable conditions. This requires the lapse of considerable time before the final analysis can be made, in order that the material may be properly air-dried. The first and most important method part of this problem has already been worked out, demonstrating the safety of the drying conditions as recommended in the specifications, but the second part has not yet been completely solved, and the experiments are still under way.

## Visual Inspection Not Sufficient for Airplane Woods

For nearly all commercial uses, it is sufficient that wood be dried without any visible injury or any defect that can readily be detected by inspection. For uses in which the strength requirements are more exacting, such as for airplanes, bridges,



FIG. 1. DRY KILN BUILT BY THE FOREST SERVICE AT YANKEE, MAINE.

Products Laboratory of the U. S. Forest Service, Madison, Wisconsin, was looked to for the necessary information.

The Forest Service had for many years conducted extensive experiments in the mechanical properties of various species. On the effect of various treatments and temperatures upon their properties, and develop methods of kiln-drying woods from the green condition.

The "Signal Corps specifications" were prepared on the basis of this previous knowledge of drying and of the mechanical properties of woods. The results of a few preliminary tests made in April and May, 1935, upon some samples of material of partly air-dried spruce and ash were also taken into account.

## Maneuver for More Exact Knowledge as to Strength

It was evidently desirable, however, to establish definitely and beyond all question what effect would be produced upon the strength of the wood by methods of drying given in the specifications, and to obtain more exact knowledge about the loading conditions for each species of wood as regards the severity of treatment beyond which it would be unsafe to go. This called for extensive drying and strength tests, which were at once undertaken at the Forest Products Laboratory. Shipments of logs of various species were received at the Laboratory. The logs were sawed, and materials selected therefrom were kiln-dried under different sets of conditions. Mechanical tests were then conducted to compare this material with matched green specimens, and also with matched specimens

etc., a slight reduction in strength, of 18 or even 20 per cent, in sections of sufficient consequence to be considered a serious defect, produced the wood is satisfactory in other respects. Even when strength is of prime importance, as for land timbers, for instance, a serious consequence, such as a crack, would seldom result from failure in this respect. In fact, in the manufacture concerned in handling wood for ordinary purposes, and more especially to the lumber dealer who are used to the commercial grading rules and methods of inspection, the selection of wood for emphasis in this (drying) a new business. It is frequently difficult for these individuals to realize their knowledge of former methods of inspection to appreciate the significance of the subtle defects which render wood unsuitable for airplanes.

The subtle invisible defects not covered by ordinary grading rules are breakdown, spiral grain, cross-graining (internal stresses), and minute checks produced as the drying that have closed up again and become inevitable.

Methods of inspection, for the detection of these subtle defects are, as yet, by no means satisfactorily worked out. Moreover, inspection is necessarily incorporated in this line of work, as such examinations are comparatively new, and for specific tests are known for determining positively whether a particular piece is suitable or should be rejected. Much doubt is upon judgment founded on experience, and, as the latter have necessarily been lacking, errors have frequently been made. Inspection have often become alarmed over any sign of smaller class of defects and have thrown out great quantities of valuable material, such as wing beams or propeller shafts,



FIG. 2. CIRCULAR FIRE WOOD BEAMS SPICK BEAMS FOR THE KILNS.

which both to destruction subsequently, associated with new have shown to be seriously suitable for use.

## Advances Not

In this connection, the question of "advance not" as affecting the toughness of the wood is of great importance. Even where there is apparently no evidence of the actual presence of fungus hyphae, the x-ray tests have been known to reveal some distance into the otherwise sound wood, showing the chemical evidence of the rot with and causing the so-called "advance rot." This condition is usually accompanied by a deterioration of the wood, but other deterioration of an entirely harmless nature also frequently occurs, and the fact—known of certain fungi feeds and rotting upon exposure to the air. Very little is known concerning this subject and it is now being carefully studied by the pathologists of the Department of Agriculture.

## No Adequate Means Test Have Yet Been Devised

It might be argued that an actual unperformed test is the only accurate means of determining the suitability of a piece of wood for use, but here the difficulty arises that a materialized test, so be relatively adequate for the purpose, in some cases requires the part and window it will for use. A test made upon the clearest look of the material will establish its strength by the action of stress applied, but it does not indicate what will be the behavior of the piece if it is suddenly made to withstand a load considerably in excess of the amount. On the

other hand, a test made on an adjacent piece of wood fails of the purpose, as the defect may be confined to the one specimen and not occur in the representative piece tested. This leaves us back upon a visual examination based on the intimate experience of the inspector, which after all may prove to be the most effective way, but, at the present time, is far from satisfactory, and for entire purposes the mechanical test, within the limits of its limitations, is probably the preferable.

The test to measure load of stress that fall in the long column class is adequate to determine the load carrying capacity of the wood, and the test may be made without any injury to the wood. Such tests, however, cannot entirely take the place of visual inspection. Visual inspection is needed in the case to detect defects which, while not affecting the maximum load, would have a tendency to produce failure very early after the maximum load was passed.

## Scientific Drying Conditions

The accompanying curves give the temperatures and humidities outside for kiln drying airplane material without injury. The length of time shown is only intended as approximate, as it will vary greatly at different humidities and temperatures. In these curves the temperature is in degrees Fahrenheit of the hottest portion of the pile of lumber. The relative humidity and the moisture percentage of portions of lumber subjected to these same conditions are also given. It is not intended that these curves should represent the optimum conditions at all times, as it would ordinarily be extremely impracticable to fol-

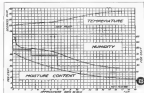


FIG. 3. CONVERSION CHART FOR KILN DRYING PLANE, RELATIVE HUMIDITY METHOD BY THE DRY FIBER.

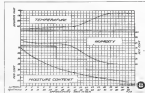


FIG. 4. CONVERSION CHART FOR KILN DRYING PLANE, RELATIVE HUMIDITY METHOD BY THE DRY FIBER.

few a month more in the regulation of a dry lake, but they represent the maximum temperatures and minimum humidities which should prevail for any considerable time, and a condition which should be approached as early as possible. Neither conditions are pernicious, but not more severe. Humidity in saturated steam at the beginning of the drying with a temperature not more than 15 deg. Fahr. higher than the initial drying temperature, and continuing no longer for every inch of thickness, is permissible and usually desirable for green wood, the previously air-dried wood, eight hours for every inch of thickness may be allowed, with a temperature not over 20 deg. higher than the initial drying temperature. Near the end of the run, the material, if unexhausted, should be allowed for not more than three hours, in saturated steam at a temperature 20 deg. higher than the final drying temperature. After obtaining the normal drying conditions should be resumed, and the same constant added by the steaming should be resumed from the bunker. An average drying of 9 per cent, with an individual maximum of 10 is 11 per cent, is substantially repeated.

For details as to measurements of conditions in dry lake and tests of the lumber, reference is made to Signal Corps Specification 100,000-A.

### Study of Aerology in the Air Service

The establishment by the Navy Department of a school to train men in the science of aerology, or the expansion of the few aerologists now in the service, is the first step of the two steps taken by the Government for the study of this subject, now necessary, in the interest of aviation both in a military sense and commercially. The Army has requested that aerological facilities for fighters should be provided at the school to co-operate in this new study. The second step made by the

Government is the establishing of a board comprising two Army and two Navy officers and two representatives of the Weather Bureau who have been working on the problem of meteorological adjustment covering the upper air. In the Army and Navy it is supposed that a system of upper air observation be established and reports transmitted to a central point, where they may be disseminated by telegraph and station as in use done in Great Britain. The meteorological adjustment desired is first for the United States and then with Canada and South America. In this connection it will be recalled that when the British dirigible R-34 arrived at Mineola, Long Island, on July 5, on the first trans-Atlantic trip of this type of airship, the meteorological office of the dirigible noted it was his impression that the weather reports issued by the governmental weather bureau were absolutely of no use once an airship rose to the great heights at which they saw travel, and that aerology was an undeveloped science as far as practical aviation is concerned. Air Service officers attending flights for altitude records in war Army have also demonstrated how little we know of meteorological conditions in the upper strata.

The Aerological School maintained at the Navy Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., will have an accession of fifteen enlisted men to staff the four smaller prescribed course opening on Dec. 1. Six of the students come from the Navy Air Service, three from the Marine Corps and six from the Army Air Service. The class of six with which the school opened in securing necessary aerology preliminary in taking the admission course, which will be maintained at the Weather Bureau in Washington, D. C.

### M. I. T. Endowment Campaign



FRONT VIEW OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CHARLES RIVER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

The U. S. Government is doing much of its research along aero-dynamics lines in the Aeronautical Engineering Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The wind tunnel there is one of the few researches of real kind in the United States and is modeled on the channel built by the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, England. It consists of a horizontal wooden box, 20 ft. in length and 4 ft. square. At one end a four-bladed propeller revolves up to a speed of 180 r.p.m. for a current velocity of 40 m.p.h. This is driven by a motorized speed control motor. A speed of 30 m.p.h. has been found to be the best for ordinary testing. An important feature of this tunnel is the remarkably uniform flow of air, this uniformity being maintained by means of a motor element used in conjunction with an air-speed gauge.

In the tunnel is a balance which registers the lift, the draft, and the resistance of the surface of the body. It is one of the ones at the National Physical Laboratory in Great Britain and the one in America was considered of great importance that it was given a complete lecture in lift

England. In testing a complete model of a plane for "yaw" or rotation about the vertical axis, in flight, or in testing a wing the moment the model is mounted on a channel air in normal flying position and the moment of rotation determined by means of a calibrated beam wire.

The Institute is anxious to develop aeronautical engineering courses to a point where it can be utilized in the development of the kind that the money and friends of M. I. T. are planning a campaign for a \$15,000,000 Endowment Fund. The campaign is to last through the fall, but will be successfully completed before the beginning of the new year if the outside is to receive the \$4,000,000 which an unknown benefactor, "Mr. Smith," has promised on the condition that another \$4,000,000 be raised in that time. Technology even her present splendid quarters is a large measure to the generosity of this donor. "Mr. Smith" has promised to contribute \$7,000,000. This time "Mr. Smith" has promised to reveal his real name at the close of the campaign and all Technology is waiting that time with a great deal of interest.

## Computations of Airplane Climb

By F. W. Caldwell\*

The following assumptions will be made in calculating the climbing rate with a blade propeller:

1. Engine output = 215 hp.
2. Propeller diameter = 6 ft. and  $d = 50.3$  sq. ft.
3. Radius area = 2.2 sq. ft. Effective area = 52.3 - 2.2 = 50.1.
4. Velocity of airplane = 170 m.p.h. = 170 f.p.s.
5. Engine speed = 1600 r.p.m. = 26.7 r.p.s.

The calculations are as follows:

In order to compute the thrust assume a propeller efficiency of 78 per cent.

$$T = \frac{550 \times \text{hp} \times \epsilon}{V} = \frac{550 \times 210 \times 0.78}{170} = 420 \text{ lb.}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{a}{a + \frac{V}{2}} = \frac{40 \times 176 \times 0.00236}{40 + \frac{170}{2}} = 21.4 \text{ p.s.}$$

$$\text{Slip} = \frac{c}{V} = \frac{25.8}{176} = 14.6 \%$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{V}{V + \frac{170}{2}} = 94.2 \%$$

We must now determine the value of  $\frac{ND}{V}$  and in doing this it may be assumed that the radius is 0.75 radius is representative of the propeller as a whole.

$$\frac{ND}{V} = \frac{0.75 \times 1600 \times \pi}{60 \times 180} = 0.628$$

$$\frac{ND}{V} = 33.8, \text{ (from Fig. 31) } = 0.604.$$

Then  $\epsilon = 0.642 \times 0.935 = 0.615$ , which is reduced to 98 per cent is the overall component of the slip stream. (The efficiency of 78 per cent in computing thrust is nearly enough correct so that it need not be recomputed.)

$$\text{Output} = 0.98 \times 210 = 206 \text{ hp.}$$

$$\text{The effective pitch angle } \phi = \arcsin \frac{0.25ND}{V} = 20.8 \text{ deg.}$$

Assume that the true angle of attack from chord is 9.5 deg. and that blade angle  $(\beta) = 29.5$  deg.

Propeller Efficiency Under Climbing Conditions

The following calculations apply to propellers on a conventional-type engine.

Assume rate of climb = 65 m.p.h. = 95.3 f.p.s.

The speed in climbing = 187.5 r.p.m.

Assume efficiency = 68 per cent.

$$T = \frac{550 \times 200 \times 0.68 \times 187.5}{187.5 \times 170} = 449 \text{ lb.}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{40 \times 176 \times 0.00236}{40 + \frac{170}{2}} = 21.4 \text{ p.s.}$$

$$\text{Slip} = \frac{25.8}{176} = 14.6 \%$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{V}{V + \frac{170}{2}} = 94.2 \%$$

$$\frac{ND}{V} = \frac{0.75 \times 1600 \times \pi}{60 \times 180} = 0.628$$

$$\frac{ND}{V} = 33.8, \text{ (from Fig. 31) } = 0.604.$$

$$\epsilon = 0.642 \times 0.935 = 0.615, \text{ which is reduced to 98 per cent is the overall component of the slip stream.}$$

Angle of attack = blade angle - effective pitch angle

$$\beta - \epsilon = 29.5 - 14.6 = 14.9 \text{ deg.}$$

$$\epsilon = 0.78 \times 0.70 = 0.546 \text{ per cent, which is reduced by the speed component of slip stream to 68 per cent.}$$

$$\text{Output} = \frac{0.68 \times 187.5 \times 170}{187.5} = 94 \text{ hp.}$$

Before going further to determine the climbing rate let us obtain thrust used in the above for an adjustable pitch propeller. For this assume that:

$$\text{Speed} = 187.5 \text{ r.p.m. during climbing}$$

$$\text{Output} = 187.5 \times 170 = 200 \text{ hp.}$$

$$\text{Efficiency} = 65 \%$$

$$\text{Air speed} = 65 \text{ mph} = 95.3 \text{ f.p.s.}$$

$$T = \frac{550 \times 200 \times 0.65}{187.5} = 650 \text{ lb.}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{40 \times 176 \times 0.00236}{40 + \frac{170}{2}} = 21.4 \text{ p.s.}$$

$$\text{Slip} = \frac{25.8}{176} = 14.6 \%$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{V}{V + \frac{170}{2}} = 94.2 \%$$

$$\frac{ND}{V} = \frac{0.75 \times 1600 \times \pi}{60 \times 180} = 0.628$$

$$\frac{ND}{V} = 33.8, \text{ (from Fig. 31) } = 0.604.$$

$$\epsilon = 0.642 \times 0.935 = 0.615, \text{ which is reduced to 98 per cent is the overall component of the slip stream.}$$

$$\text{Output} = 0.98 \times 200 = 196 \text{ hp.}$$

Comparison of Climbing Thrust

Assume Weight = 1900 lb.

Thrust required to fly at 65 m.p.h. = 35 hp.

With the 2-leaf Pitch Propeller

Thrust power for climbing = 94 - 35 = 59 hp.

Rate of climb =  $\frac{59 \times 33000}{1900} = 1030 \text{ f.p.m.}$

With adjustable Pitch Propeller

Thrust power for climbing, 225 - 35 = 90 hp.

Rate of climb,  $\frac{90 \times 33000}{1900} = 1570 \text{ f.p.m.}$

Gain in rate of climb = 45%.

The increasing speed of output during climbing will have the tendency to retard the propeller while climbing and to slow the speed to become normal in level flight. The desirability of this feature is still open to question.

Calculations of Efficiency During Climbing

The following calculations apply to an adjustable pitch propeller on a constant torque engine:

(1) At ground level

$$\epsilon = 0.00236 \quad d = 204 \text{ sq. ft.}$$

$$T = 123.7 \text{ p.s.} \quad \text{Engine output, 645 hp at 1700 r.p.m.}$$

$$\text{Assume efficiency} = 50 \%$$

\*The following mechanical constants,  $\pi = 3.1416$ ,  $g = 32.2$ ,  $1 \text{ ft.} = 12 \text{ in.}$ ,  $1 \text{ min.} = 60 \text{ sec.}$ ,  $1 \text{ hr.} = 3600 \text{ sec.}$

$$T = \frac{0.85 \times 445 \times 500}{100} = 1310 \text{ ft.}$$

$$s = \frac{1310}{0.00238 \times 104 \times 100} = 51.4 \text{ f.p.s.}$$

$$a = \frac{F}{F + \frac{S}{2}} = \frac{100}{138.2} = 0.83$$

$$\frac{M.D.}{F} = \frac{1700 \times 11.5 \times 0.75}{60 \times 138.2} = 1.704$$

$$\frac{K_x}{K_a} = 35, \quad a_1 \text{ (from Fig. 3)} = 0.720$$

$a = 0.720 \times 0.83 = 0.579$ , which is reduced by the spiral component of the slip stream to be 52 per cent.

Output (useful) =  $445 \times 0.54 = 239 \text{ hp.}$

(3) At 35,000 ft., altitude:

$$\frac{L}{S} = 0.00176, \quad A = 104 \text{ sq. ft.}$$

$$F = 118.7 \text{ f.p.s. (See Fig. 2L)}$$

Output =  $445 \text{ hp. at } 1790 \text{ rpm.}$

Airframe efficiency = 66%.

$$T = \frac{0.85 \times 445 \times 500}{118.7} = 1350 \text{ ft.}$$

$$s = \frac{1350}{0.00279 \times 104.7 \times 138.7} = 52.57 \text{ f.p.s.}$$

$$a = \frac{F}{F + \frac{S}{2}} = \frac{118.7}{145} = 0.819$$

$$\frac{M.D.}{F} = \frac{1700 \times 11.5 \times 0.75}{60 \times 155.9} = 1.50$$

$$\frac{K_x}{K_a} = 30, \quad a_1 \text{ (from Fig. 3)} = 0.74$$

$a = 0.819 \times 0.74 = 0.605$  per cent, which is reduced by spiral component of slip stream to be 52 per cent.

Output (useful) =  $445 \times 0.57 = 254 \text{ hp.}$

(3) At 35,000 ft., altitude:

$$\frac{L}{S} = 0.00139, \quad A = 104 \text{ sq. ft.}$$

$$F = 148.7 \text{ f.p.s. (See Fig. 2L)}$$

Output =  $445 \text{ hp. at } 1790 \text{ rpm.}$

Airframe efficiency = 62%.

$$T = \frac{0.85 \times 445 \times 500}{148.7} = 1060 \text{ ft.}$$

$$s = \frac{1060}{0.00139 \times 104 \times 144} = 61.72 \text{ f.p.s.}$$

$$a = \frac{F}{F + \frac{S}{2}} = \frac{148.7}{175} = 0.835$$

$$\frac{M.D.}{F} = \frac{1700 \times 11.5 \times 0.75}{60 \times 180} = 1.22$$

$$\frac{K_x}{K_a} = 35, \quad a_1 \text{ (from Fig. 3)} = 0.720$$

$a = 0.720 \times 0.835 = 0.599$  per cent, which is reduced by spiral component of slip stream to be 52 per cent.

Output (useful) =  $445 \times 0.52 = 230 \text{ hp.}$

Engine with Constant Torque

The values of  $K_x$  necessary to maintain flight at different speeds and altitudes can be calculated from the formula:

$$C \cdot K_x \cdot V^2 = 3400$$

in which  $K_x$  equals 470, at that

These values of  $K_x$  are given in the following table:

M.P.H.	40	45	50	55	60	65
F.P.S.	44.7	50.0	55.3	60.6	65.9	71.2
Altitude, ft.	$K_x$	$K_x$	$K_x$	$K_x$	$K_x$	$K_x$
0	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
1000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
2000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
3000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
4000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
5000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
6000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
7000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
8000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
9000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0
10000	35.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	15.0	10.0

The rate of climb can be obtained by comparing the thrust and the wing drag. The difference between thrust and wing drag at maximum speed will be the parasite resistance. The parasite resistance for other speeds can be figured from the ratio of the cube of the velocities, and the wing drag by the usual method. From the sum of these two the power required to fly can be computed, and when that is subtracted from the useful power delivered the excess horsepower, and consequently the rate of climb, can be figured.

For 150 m.p.h. (131.7 f.p.s.),

$$\text{useful } K_x = 0.6055, \quad \frac{K_x}{K_a} = 12.5$$

$$\text{Wing drag} = W = \frac{K_x}{K_a} = \frac{2600}{22.2} = 275 \text{ lb.}$$

$$\text{Power delivered to plane} = 0.80 \times 300 = 240 \text{ hp.}$$

$$\text{Wing drag hp} = 275 \times \frac{270}{550} = 46$$

Assuming engine speed of 1150 rpm. at the ground, its thrust at 70 m.p.h. the engine will give 293 hp. Assuming 36 per cent propeller efficiency, the thrust will be

$$T = \frac{0.36 \times 293 \times 550}{32.2} = 331 \text{ lb.}$$

$$s = \frac{0.0027 \times 194 \times 183}{32.2} = 36.8 \text{ f.p.s.}$$

$$a = \frac{F}{F + \frac{S}{2}} = \frac{103}{120.5} = 0.855$$

Illustration of Method of Calculations for Engines with Constant Torque

Altitude	4000	5000	6000	7000	8000
Wing drag, lb.	100.7	120.7	140.7	160.7	180.7
Power required, hp.	72.0	86.0	100.0	114.0	128.0
Useful power, hp.	72.0	86.0	100.0	114.0	128.0
Rate of climb, ft./min.	100.7	120.7	140.7	160.7	180.7
Time to reach altitude, min.	1.00	0.83	0.67	0.50	0.40
Time to reach altitude, sec.	60.0	49.8	40.0	30.0	24.0
Time to reach altitude, min.	1.00	0.83	0.67	0.50	0.40
Time to reach altitude, sec.	60.0	49.8	40.0	30.0	24.0

$$\frac{M.D.}{F} = \frac{1100 \times 11.5 \times 0.75}{60 \times 190.0} = 1.28$$

Assuming  $\frac{K_x}{K_a}$  of 23 for this condition, the useful efficiency will be 67 per cent, and

$$a = 0.67 \times 0.855 = 0.574$$

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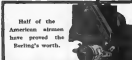
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